I. Amendments to the Specification

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on line number 3, of page 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Using such a process, the seal portions 32 are molded together with the collar sections 24 to form the sleeve seal 20. Accordingly, the method here would involve producing the body portion 22 including the annular collar sections 24 that have the link segments 30 extending therefrom. The body portion 22 could be produced by a molding operation if plastic, or a stamping or casting operation if metal. The body portion 22 is then placed in a mold cavity having voids to accept the body portion 22 and voids to accept the seal portion 32. After the mold is closed, the seal portion 32 is then injected into the voids of the mold cavity not occupied by the body portion 22. Thus, the seal portion 32 is molded contiguous with the collar sections 24 and around the link segments 30 for interlocking the seal portion 32 and body portion 22, to integrate the composite sleeve seal 20 as one integral component. After the seal portion 32 has cured, the mold is opened allowing removal of the finished composite sleeve seal 20.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on line number 16, of page 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As best shown in Figure 4, the composite sleeve seal 20 according to the present invention is shown in a typical conduit block connection 10. The composite sleeve seal 20 of the present invention is suitable for a variety of tube end-forming applications, such as the conduit block connection 10, or a spring-lock coupling (not shown). The conduit block connection 10 embodies a male block assembly 40, a female block assembly 60, and the

composite sleeve seal 20. The composite sleeve seal 20 is adapted to surround and engage a male tube 44 that is held to a male connecting block 42 by a roll formed annular upset bead 48. The conduit block connection 10 also includes the female block assembly 60 including a threaded stud 12 threaded into a female connecting block 62. The female connecting block 62 includes a throughbore 66 into which the male tube 44 and composite sleeve seal 20 locate upon assembly of the conduit block connection 10.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on line number 5, of page 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As shown in Figure 5, the male tube 44 and composite sleeve seal 20 locate within the throughbore 66 of the female connecting block 62. The composite sleeve seal 20 circumscribes the male tube 44 such that the composite sleeve seal 20 is disposed between the male tube 44 and the throughbore 66 of the female connecting block ~~60~~ 62. The seal portions 32 are radially compressed between the male tube 44 and female connecting block 62 and axially restrained by the collar sections 24 to form the fluid-tight seal. This results in a continuous annular rubber sealing surface from an outer diameter 46 of the male tube 44 to the inner diameter of the throughbore 66 of the female connecting block 62, thus establishing a primary seal.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on line number 14, of page 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A secondary seal is established by the tapered portion 26 of the composite sleeve seal 20. The female connecting block 62 further includes a mounting surface 64, and includes the

throughbore 66 extending through the female connecting block 62. The throughbore 66 includes a chamfer 68 in the mounting surface 64 where the chamfer 68 and throughbore 66 define a transition surface 70 therebetween. The transition surface 70 is essentially a ring formed from an annulus of intersecting points formed at the intersection of the chamfer 68 and throughbore 66. The tapered surface 28 of the tapered portion 26 of the composite sleeve seal 20 locates against the transition surface 70 of the female connecting block 62 such that the transition surface 70 engages in annular line contact against the tapered surface 28 to create a secondary seal of the fluid-tight conduit block connection 10. This, in effect, forces the components on center thereby avoiding ~~side-load~~ side load types of failures.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on line number 3, of page 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An additional advantage is that there is no need for O-ring sealing members. In conventional block connection fittings, O-rings are designed to compress approximately 6% to create a seal. Instead, a combination of the manufacturing variations in machining the O-ring grooves, slight manufacturing variations in the male tubular member and slight manufacturing variances in the female tubular member may result in a tolerance range of 2-15%. A tolerance ~~range~~ of 2% is significantly below the ideal 6% compression for an O-ring seal which results in the O-rings being damaged during assembly, and leads to premature failure and leaks. Likewise, any tolerance over 6% would not compress the O-rings at all, resulting in leaks. The sleeve seal of the present invention is capable of compensating the 2-15% tolerance range and beyond, thereby enhancing the life span and quality of the seal.